

**WORLD-RENOUNDED TRANSPLANT PIONEER ROBERT GOOD DIES**

A pioneer in bone marrow transplant who was considered by many the founder of modern cellular immunology has died at age 81. The cause of death was esophageal cancer, his family has said.

Dr. Robert Alan Good was a pediatrician, microbiologist, and pathologist who gained international recognition in a long and spectacular career that included the first successful human bone marrow transplant in 1968.

The first marrow transplant involved a five-month-old boy with a profound immune deficiency that had killed 11 male members of his extended family. Dr. Good led a team at the University of Minnesota who corrected the fatal condition with bone marrow extracted and infused from his 8-year-old sister. The patient grew up to healthy adulthood and is reported to be alive today and himself a father.

A native of Minnesota, Bob Good was six years of age when his father died of cancer. From then on he wanted to become a physician and pursue research that would cure disease.

He began teaching at the University of Minnesota in 1944, where he earned his MD and PhD degrees. He first drew notice nationally in 1962 when he reported his findings on the thymus gland to the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology. He identified the thymus as the primary source for the body's defense mechanisms.

His discoveries helped establish that immunodeficiency diseases are not rare, as once thought, but a frequent and very important basis of serious disease in mankind. His studies led to the recognition and demonstration of the T-cell and B-cell arms of the immune system and the development of useful methods of bone marrow transplantation.

In 1965 he reported evidence that tonsils, widely regarded as useless, actually had an important function in developing the immune defense systems in mammals, including young humans, and he advised that they should be removed only if involved in a serious health problem.

Dr. Good was recruited to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in 1973 as president and director of the Sloan-Kettering Institute and director of research at Memorial Hospital. During his tenure a new era of clinical investigations was initiated with many strong programs at Memorial Hospital. Sloan-Kettering became one of the original eight institutions recognized by the National Cancer Institute as a Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Since 1983, Dr. Good has been at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla., as physician-in-chief and, at the time of his death, Distinguished Research Professor at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Dr. Good received numerous awards and prizes during his 55 years in medical research and science, including the Albert Lasker Clinical Research Award for uniquely important contributions to the understanding of the mechanisms of immunity, the discovery of the role of the thymus, and clinical bone marrow transplantation. He was a founding member of the National Institutes of Medicine. He was author, co-author, or editor of more than 2,000 papers and book chapters and trained hundreds of students in immunology.

A member of ASBMT since its early days, Dr. Good was recently honored by the Society when invited to present the annual E. Donnell Thomas Lecture at the 2000 Tandem BMT Meetings in Anaheim. At the conclusion of a dinner dedicated to him and two eminent colleagues—Dr. Thomas and the late Dr. George Santos—the line of bone marrow transplant colleagues, former students, in-training fellows, and other well-wishers took an hour and a half to pass by.



**Robert Alan Good, MD, PhD**  
**1922-2003**



**Dr. Robert Good, right, is recognized on the occasion of his presenting the E. Donnell Thomas Lecture at the 2000 Tandem BMT Meetings in Anaheim. Presenting the plaque is ASBMT Past-President Dr. Keith Sullivan, who chaired the scientific preprogram for the meeting.**